

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

Buckingham Town Council

ACTING AS THE

Urban District Council.

1923.



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*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of Buckingham
acting by the Town Council as the Urban District
Council.*

THE CORNER HOUSE,
BUCKINGHAM,
April, 1924.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my thirteenth Annual Report for your District.

1. General Statistics.

Area of District, 4773 acres 1r. 9p.

Population, 3019.

Number of inhabited houses, 888.

Number of families or separate occupiers (estimated), 890.

Rateable value, £19,284.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £58.

The estimated Population is supplied by the Registrar General, and is that as at June 30th, 1923.

2. Vital Statistics.

		Total. Male. Female,			
Births	{ Legitimate	46	28	18	} Birth-rate 15·5.
	{ Illegitimate	1		1	
Deaths		50	21	29	} Death-rate 16·6

Number of women dying in, or } From Sepsis, nil.
in consequence of, childbirth. } „ other causes, nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :
46·8.

Legitimate, Male 0 ; Illegitimate, Female 2.

Deaths from Measles, nil.

„ „ Whooping Cough, nil.

„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age), nil.

The point of interest here is the drop in the number of Births as from last year. The number of Deaths is exactly the same as last year, which is curious.

The number of deaths in Infants under one year of age is also the same as last year, but the number of births being less, the actual Death rate per 1,000 births is higher than last year.

CAUSES OF DEATH. (Civilians only)						M.	F.
ALL CAUSES.						21	29
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...		7
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...		1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...		1
Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	...	...		1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	9	12
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	{	Total	...	...	...		2
		Illegitimate	...	...	...		
Total Births	...	...	...	...	...	28	19
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	28	18
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...		1
Population	...	...	...	...	...	3019	

3. Notifiable Diseases.

DISEASE.					Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	3	2	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	—	—
Other diseases, generally notifiable : Malaria...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Other diseases notifiable locally : Chicken Pox...	...	...	...	...	23	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE-PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
{ 1								
{ 5								
{ 10	1	1						
{ 15			1					
{ 20								
{ 25								
{ 35	1	1		1				
{ 45								
{ 55								
{ 65								
and upwards								
Totals ...	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0

We were again fortunate in not having a serious outbreak of Infectious Disease. The outbreak of Chicken Pox was practically confined to a school for small children in the town, and after closure for a period on my advice, did not spread. Two of the Cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. Beyond these two cases we admitted no other cases to the Hospital during the year.

There were no deaths from notifiable diseases during the year.

As far as one can tell, notification of Tuberculosis cases continue to be satisfactory in the District.

The ages of the Scarlet Fever cases were 3, 6 and 14 respectively; of the Chicken Pox cases five were under 5 years of age, seventeen were between 5-10 years, five between 10 and 15 years of age and one at 25 years of age.

The ages of the Tuberculosis cases were:—

(1) Male Pulmonary, 8 years and 30 years.

Non-Pulmonary, 13 years.

(2) Female Pulmonary, 7 years and 27 years.

Non-Pulmonary, 35 years.

4. There have been no special or noteworthy causes of illness during the year.

5. **Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions in the District.**

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a). *General.* This is provided for by the Buckingham District Nursing Association, managed, in conjunction with the Buckingham Cottage Hospital, by a Voluntary Committee and financed by Voluntary Contributions and a scheme of Sliding Scale Contributions according to position financially, occupation, etc.

(b) There is no provision for providing Nurses for Infectious Cases isolated in their own homes. In the Infectious Hospital, Nurses are obtained as required, in addition to the Woman Caretaker.

(c) There are two practising Midwives in your District, both employed by the Voluntary Association mentioned above, and working under their auspices. Grants are received in respect of them from the County Authority.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There is one Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre in your District under the County Council. It is managed by a Voluntary Committee out of voluntary funds. I, personally, am the Medical Officer in charge, and one of the County Council qualified Health Visitors (Nurse Pearson) is the Nurse in Charge. It is consultative in character, and open once a month. I am glad to report that its work is increasing by the number of mothers who attend and bring their children.

School Clinics.

School Medical Inspections are carried out in your Schools by me as A.S.M.O. to the Bucks County Council.

The Dental School Clinic is held in the Council Schools, Well Street, on Saturdays during term time, under the auspices of Mr. G. Best.

The Tonsil and Adenoid Clinic is held at the Cottage Hospital, Dr. G. Bruce Pearson being the doctor in charge.

The children with defective vision attend the County Council School Eye Clinic at Bletchley.

The Tuberculosis Clinic is held every third Saturday in the month in rooms on Market Hill by Dr. L. T. Burra, County Tuberculosis Officer, assisted by Nurse Pearson.

Cases of Venereal Disease can be sent under the County Council scheme to the Clinic at Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, or certain Hospitals in London.

Hospitals provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

(1) Tuberculosis.—Cases approved by the County Tuberculosis Officer are sent to the Berks and Bucks Sanatorium, Peppard Common, near Reading. This is under the County Council.

(2) Fever.—Cases requiring Hospital Isolation are treated at the Hospital situated near the hamlet of Gawcott, and provided for by this Authority and the Rural District Council of Buckingham.

(3) Small-pox.—These cases are sent to the joint Isolation Hospital near Fenny Stratford, provided for by this Authority in conjunction with others in North Bucks.

Hospitals, other than those provided for or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council, and used by the District are :—(1) Buckingham Cottage Hospital (in the District) ; (2) Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford ; (3) Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury ; (4) the General Hospital, Northampton (outside the District) ; (5) Buckingham Union Infirmary (in the District).

The only institutional treatment in the District for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children is by application to the Board of Guardians for admission to the Buckingham Union and Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For Infectious Cases.—This is provided for by this Authority for its own cases.

(b) Non-infectious and Accident Cases.—This is provided for by the scheme to which this Authority subscribes for the use of the Red Cross Ambulance situated at Newport Pagnell, Bucks, and also by the local St. John Ambulance, in charge of the local St. John Ambulance Brigade, and towards which your Council subscribe.

6. Laboratory Work.

There is no special laboratory to which specimens are sent. In the case of Diphtheria Swabs. this Authority pays the expense of examination in necessitous cases on application by local practitioners. Anti-toxin serum is also provided in such cases.

Adoptive Acts.

Date of Adoption.

Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907 25/10/1920

Bye Laws.

Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	7/7/1890
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	7/7/1890
New Streets and Buildings	...	...	...	7/7/1890
Cleansing of Footways	...	...	...	7/7/1890
Removal of House Refuse	...	...	...	7/7/1890
Cleansing of Privies	...	...	...	7/7/1890
Prevention of Nuisances	...	...	...	7/7/1890
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	7/7/1890
Carriage of Offensive Matters	...	...	...	7/7/1890
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	7/7/1890

Regulations.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	7/1/1907
Water Supply	...	...	June, 1893

7. Sanitary Administration.

Below are the usual tables of work done during the year.

The Food and Drugs Act is administered by the Bucks County Police.

**SUMMARY OF WORK BY SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR YEAR ENDING DEC. 31ST, 1923.**

GENERAL.

Inspections made	...	...	...	...	210
Stopped Drains	...	...	...	...	25
Dirty Houses	...	...	...	...	3
New Drainage	...	...	...	...	11
Defective Vent Pipes	...	...	...	...	2
„ Sink Waste	...	...	...	...	2
„ Drainage	...	...	...	...	2
Insanitary W.C.'s, &c.	...	...	...	...	3
Stopped W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	4
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	2
Damp Cellar	...	...	...	...	1
New Houses	...	...	...	...	2
Alterations and Additions	...	...	...	...	3
New Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	1
Houses and Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	6
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	2
Polluted Watercourse	...	...	...	...	1

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

On Register	...	...	...	...	8
Inspections	...	...	...	...	40
Defects	...	...	...	...	Nil

BAKEHOUSES.

On Register	...	...	...	...	6
Inspections	...	...	...	...	18
Defects	...	...	...	...	1

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

On Register	...	...	...	...	34
Inspections	...	...	...	...	70
Defects	...	...	...	...	Nil

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No alterations or additions were carried out during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply continues to be satisfactory in quality and quantity. Repairs were carried out to steam boiler at Pumping Station during the year—the smaller boiler being completed, the large boiler being under repair at the end of year. Further consideration has been given to the utilisation of the Gawcott Road supply by the erection of a wind engine pumping plant.

HOUSING.

Action with regard to houses not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation is hampered by the lack of suitable accommodation. There are no empty houses available of any kind. The erection of the 56 houses by the Council under the State-aided Scheme have not assisted the Housing conditions very appreciably.

There is undoubtedly a need for the erection of houses which can be let at an economic rent.

At the time of writing, consideration is being given to the erection of 10 or 11 houses on the vacant site at Bourtonville acquired by the Council under the State-aided Scheme.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS.

New Bye-Laws with respect to New Streets and Buildings are being considered by the Council.

WATER REGULATIONS.

New Regulations as to Water Supply are also being considered.

UN SOUND FOOD.

One tuberculous carcass was discovered during the year and the same was surrendered and disposed of. No action was taken.

Eight cases of lemons were also condemned.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

There is only one Factory in the town which emits smoke. No action was rendered necessary.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH TABLE.

HOUSING.

1923.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

1. Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	20
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	10
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	3

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	3
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:		
(a) by owners	...	1
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	Nil

HOUSING.—*Continued.*

1923.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(a) by owners	32
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

8. Public Health Staff.

This is the same as last year. I am your Medical Officer of Health, and Mr. G. B. Chilvers, M.R. San. I., F.I.S.E., M. Inst. M. & Cty. Eng., as Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

During the latter part of the year. complaints were received as to the smell arising from the Canal Basin down Stratford Road. Your Council appointed a Committee to go into the matter, and this Committee had the matter actively in hand at the end of the year.

I must again tender my thanks to the Town Clerk and Sanitary Inspector for their kindly help and courtesy at all times, and to the latter for his help especially in preparing this Report.

Your obedient servant,

T. EBEN PEMBERTON,

M.O.H. Borough of Buckingham.

